

REMARKS

Claims 2, 3, 19, and 20 remain pending in this application. Claims 1 and 4-18 have been canceled without prejudice to their reintroduction in this application or in a future continuation or divisional application.

Applicant notes the Examiner's indication that claims 2, 3, 19, and 20 contain allowable subject matter, and would be allowed if rewritten in independent form to include all of the limitations of their base claim and any intervening claims. In accordance with the Examiner's constructive suggestion, claims 2 and 19 have been written in independent form. Claims 3 and 20 depend from claim 2. Applicant respectfully submits that claims 2, 3, 19, and 20 are now in condition for allowance.

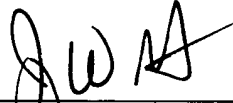
The specification has been reviewed, as requested by the Examiner.

Claim 1 had been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by JP 5-222256. Applicant respectfully submits that this rejection has been rendered moot by the cancellation of claim 1. Withdrawal is respectfully requested.

If any fees (e.g., extension, claims, etc.) are due in connection with the filing of this response, please charge Deposit Account No. 50-0548 and accept this paper as a petition for extension, if necessary.

If, after reviewing the above amendments and remarks, the Examiner believes that any issues remain unresolved, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned, by telephone, to schedule an interview to address such issues.

Respectfully submitted,



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